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## The Power of Ideas: Buffalo Law Review Honors Terrence M. Connors '71 and Kristin Graham Koehler '94

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# The power of ideas



Terrence M. Connors '71 and Kristin Graham Koehler '94

## *Buffalo Law Review honors Terrence M. Connors '71, Kristin Graham Koehler '94*

**M**embers and friends of the Law School's premier scholarly publication shared hard-won wisdom and a sense of satisfaction as they gathered for the 24th annual dinner of the *Buffalo Law Review*.

The April 18 event, at the Buffalo Club, brought together the student editors, faculty, staff and two dozen *Law Review* alumni to look back at what Caitlin M. Higgins '13, the outgoing editor in chief, called "a wonderful year. We are absolutely proud of what we published this year," Higgins said.

The journal's five issues included publication of the 2012 James McCormick Mitchell Lecture essays, commenting on the future of elder care in the United States, and a piece by Clifford J. Rosky of the University of Utah on the history and evolution of same-sex marriage.

At the dinner, the *Law Review* conferred awards of recognition on **Terrence M. Connors '71** and **Kristin Graham Koehler '94**.

Koehler, a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Sidley Austin, represents clients in white-collar criminal and civil litigation. In accepting the award, she said

her experience on *Law Review* was "instrumental in the success I have had in my career and in my life," along with the personal milestone of meeting her husband, fellow *Law Review* member David Koehler '94.

The honoree left the current *Law Review* members, 19 of whom graduated in May, with three pieces of advice. "The law can be extremely rewarding, but it can also be extremely demanding," she said. "You need to think about what do you love, what are you passionate about, what are you good at? And then you need to do it. And each and every day try to do something that scares you, something that's hard. If you don't do that, you're not going to grow as a person or as a lawyer."

In outlook, she advised, "Be self-aware. Don't ever forget where you came from; don't ever take yourself too seriously; don't ever become too full of yourself. There are so many lawyers out there who fit that mold. Don't be one of them."

And finally, "Enjoy your life."

In his remarks, Connors noted that the lead article in the very first issue of the *Buffalo Law Review* was by an early mentor of his, Charles S. Desmond '20, a longtime member of New York's

Court of Appeals.

"I had the office next to him at Damon & Morey [after he retired from the bench], and I had the good fortune to pick his brain day after day," said Connors, a well-known Buffalo litigator. "It was a learning experience like I had never had, and it was terrific."

When he solicited Desmond's opinion on whether he should leave the firm and enter solo practice, Connors said Desmond opposed the idea at first. "But the next morning he called me in, he sat me down on a chair, looked at me and said, 'I think you should do it. Because if you don't do it, you'll never know how good you could be, and you'll regret it for the rest of your life.' So I did it, and it's been a great run for us."

"Our vocation is about taking a risk. It's about doing what you know in your heart is right."

Associate Publication Awards were presented to Andrew M. Dean '14, Jacob S. Sonner '14, Jessica L. Noto '14 and Ashley F. Watkins '14. The Justice Philip Halpern Award, presented to a senior for excellence in writing, went to Joshua M. Tallent '13, executive editor of the journal. And the Carlos C. Alden Award, presented to the senior making the greatest contribution to the *Law Review*, was presented to Adam L. Hayes '13.

The incoming editor in chief of the *Buffalo Law Review* is Emily A. Dinsmore '14.